

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ALGIER 01445 061502Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6610

S E C R E T ALGIERS 1445

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, AG
SUBJECT: CROWN PRINCE FAHD VISIT

REF: STATE 124776

1. CHARGE JUNE 4 BRIEFED MOHAMED ABERKANE, CHIEF OF NORTH AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, ON MIDDLE EAST DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRINCE FAHD AND PRESIDENT CARTER PER REFTEL.

2. ABERKANE MEDITATED BRIEFLY, THEN STATED THAT WHAT "SERIOUSLY DISTURBED" ALGERIANS WAS LIKUD VICTORY IN ISRAELI ELECTIONS. HE STATED ALGERIAN FEAR WAS THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOW STIMULATE ISRAELI LOBBY IN US TO PRESSURE CONGRESS AND THAT DISPUTE PRESIDENT CARTER'S BEST INTENTIONS HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO OBTAIN ISRAELI CONCESSIONS. HE SAID IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR PLO TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION 242 AND ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST WHEN NO ONE RECOGNIZED PLO'S RIGHT TO EXIST; THERE HAD TO BE MORE THAN 242. HE OBSERVED THAT RABIN MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE SOME VAGUE STATEMENT ON "HOMELAND" WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY PLO AND THUS RESOLVE ISSUE, OR AT LEAST ALLOW EVERYONE TO GET TO GENEVA; HE SAW LITTLE CHANCE OF SUCH STATEMENT FROM ISRAELIS NOW.

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3. I RESPONDED THAT, AS PRESIDENT HAD REMARKED TO FAHD, IT WOULD BE BEST IF EVERYONE REMAINED CALM UNTIL ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN FORMED AND PRESIDENT HAD HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH NEW ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER.

4. COMMENT: ABERKANE'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN ABOUT PLO'S

POSITION REFLECTS STANDARD ALGERIAN LINE THAT KEY TO ANY
MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT IS RESOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM.
I NOTE THAT FOR FIRST TIME IN SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS I HAVE
BEEN HAVING WITH ABERKANE ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN MIDDLE EAST
NEGOTIATIONS, HE EXPRESSED SOME PESSIMISM.LYNE

SECRET

NNN

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